

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 18-21, 28, and 31-34 are pending. Claims 5, 6, 29 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 28 have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer and find support *inter alia* in the original claims. Further support for the amendment is found, for example, in the original claim 6 as filed. No new matter has been added.

The above amendments further narrow the scope of the claims and thus, do not present any new issues that require further consideration or search. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments as they are believed to put the claims in condition for allowance or, alternatively, in better form for consideration on appeal. Thus, entry under 37 CFR §1.116 is correct.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 5, 6, 18-21, and 28-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Stetter *et al.* (hereinafter “Stetter”), in view of DSMZ catalogue, Mori *et al.* (hereinafter “Mori”) and Seufer-Wasserthal *et al.* (hereinafter “Seufer-Wasserthal”). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection. However, to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer by adopting the Examiner’s proposed claim amendments as provided in the facsimile sent to Applicants on April 13, 2010. As indicated in the present Office Action, Applicants believe that the present amendments overcome the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and further in view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims. If any outstanding issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Applicants reserve all rights to pursue the non-elected claims and subject matter in one or more divisional applications, if necessary.

This response is filed within the three-month period for response from the mailing of the Office Communication. No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, the Director is

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authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 13111-00027 US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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